

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 19-20 and amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information gathering system in an event hall which performs transmission and reception of questionnaire information between an information gathering server for gathering said questionnaire information, based on a questionnaire carry-out schedule for each event hall and contents of a questionnaire and portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall, wherein said system comprises [[has]] area terminals provided area by area in [[each]] the event hall for relaying said questionnaire information,

wherein said system performs transmission and reception of said questionnaire information between said information gathering server and said area terminals over an Internet, and

wherein said system performs transmission and reception of said questionnaire information between said area terminals and said portable user terminals by close-range wireless communication.

2. (Currently Amended) An information gathering system in an event hall, comprising:

portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall;
area terminals provided area by area in said event hall;
an information gathering server;
a client terminal;
a network which connects said area terminals, said client terminal and said information gathering server;
a device by which allows said information gathering server ~~to register~~ registers hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire based on questionnaire request information sent from said client terminal;
a device by which allows said information gathering server ~~to transmit~~ transmits said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals over said network when said questionnaire start date has come;

a device by which allows an area terminal having received said contents of said questionnaire transfers said contents of said questionnaire to those portable user terminals which are located in the same area by close-range wireless communication;

a device by which allows each of said portable user terminals having received said contents of said questionnaire ~~to input~~ inputs an answer to said questionnaire and ~~transmit~~ transmits said answer to said questionnaire to that area terminal in the same area by close-range wireless communication; and

a device by which allows said area terminal having received said answer to said questionnaire ~~to affix~~ affixes a hall/area ID and a present date to said answer to said questionnaire and ~~transmit~~ transmits that answer to said questionnaire to said information gathering server over said network, and allows said information gathering server to store those pieces of information.

3. (Currently Amended) An information gathering system in an event hall comprising:
 - portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall;
 - a hall terminal provided at a gift hand-over place in said event hall ~~for receiving information on gift recipients from the information gathering server and displaying the information;~~
 - area terminals provided area by area in said event hall;
 - an information gathering server;
 - a client terminal;
 - a network which connects said hall terminal, said area terminals, said client terminal and said information gathering server;
 - a device by which allows said information gathering server ~~to register~~ registers hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request information sent from said client terminal;
 - a device by which allows said information gathering server ~~to transmit~~ transmits said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals over said network when said questionnaire start date has come;
 - a device by which an area terminal having received said contents of said questionnaire transfers said contents of said questionnaire to those portable user terminals

which are located in the same area by close-range wireless communication;

a device by which ~~allows~~ each of said portable user terminals having received said contents of said questionnaire ~~to input~~ inputs an answer to said questionnaire, a name and a personal identification number and ~~transmit~~ transmits said answer to said questionnaire as answer information to that area terminal in the same area by close-range wireless communication;

a device by which ~~allows~~ said area terminal having received said answer information to said questionnaire ~~to affix~~ affixes a hall/area ID and a present date to said answer to said questionnaire and ~~transmit~~ transmits that answer to said questionnaire to said information gathering server over said network, and ~~allows~~ said information gathering server to store those pieces of information;

a device by which ~~allows~~ said information gathering server ~~to draw~~ draws a gift getting person from those persons who have answered said questionnaire when said questionnaire end date has [[comes]] come, ~~transmit~~ transmits the name of said gift getting person to that area terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person over said network, and ~~transmit~~ transmits combination information of said name of said gift getting person and said personal identification number to that hall terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person over said network; and

a device by which ~~allows~~ said area terminal having received said name of said gift getting person ~~to transfer~~ transfers said name of said gift getting person to those portable user terminals which are located in the same area by close-range wireless communication.

4. (Original) The information gathering system according to claim 2, wherein said contents of said questionnaire differ from one area to another.

5. (Original) The information gathering system according to claim 3, wherein said contents of said questionnaire differ from one area to another.

6. (Currently Amended) The information gathering system according to claim 2, further comprising a device by which ~~allows~~ said information gathering server ~~to transmit~~ transmits said answer information to said questionnaire to said client terminal over said network and execute ~~executes~~ a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come.

7. (Currently Amended) The information gathering system according to claim 3, further comprising a device by which allows said information gathering server ~~to transmit~~ transmits said answer information to said questionnaire to said client terminal over said network and execute executes a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come.
8. (Currently Amended) The information gathering system according to claim 1, wherein said by close-range wireless communication [[is]] comprises a Bluetooth communication or an infrared communication.
9. (Currently Amended) The information gathering system according to claim 2, wherein said by close-range wireless communication [[is]] comprises a Bluetooth communication or an infrared communication.
10. (Currently Amended) The information gathering system according to claim 3, wherein said by close-range wireless communication [[is]] comprises a Bluetooth communication or an infrared communication.
11. (Currently Amended) An information gathering server comprising:
~~portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall;~~
~~area terminals provided area by area in said event hall;~~
~~a client terminal;~~
~~a network which connects said area terminals, said client terminal and said an information gathering server;~~
a device which registers hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request information sent from [[said]] a client terminal;
a device which transmits said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals when said questionnaire start date has come;
a device which receives and stores an answer to said questionnaire, a hall/area ID of said area terminal, and a present date from said area terminal; and

a device which transmits said answer to said questionnaire to said client terminal and performs a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come,
wherein a network connects said information gathering server to area terminals provided area by area in an event hall, and the client terminal wherein portable user terminals are carried by persons who enter an event hall.

12. (Currently Amended) An information gathering server comprising:
 - ~~portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall;~~
 - ~~a hall terminal provided at a gift hand-over place in said event hall;~~
 - ~~area terminals provided area by area in said event hall;~~
 - ~~a client terminal;~~
 - ~~a network which connects said hall terminal, said area terminals, said client terminal and said information gathering server;~~
 - a device which registers hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request information sent from [[said]] a client terminal;
 - a device which transmits said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals when said questionnaire start date has come;
 - a device which receives and stores an answer to said questionnaire, a name, a personal identification number, a hall/area ID of said area terminal, and a present date from said area terminal;
 - a device which draws a gift getting person from those persons who have answered said questionnaire when said questionnaire end date has [[comes]] come, transmits the name of said gift getting person to that area terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person and transmits combination information of said name of said gift getting person and said personal identification number to that hall terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person; and
 - a device which transmits said answer to said questionnaire to said client terminal and performs a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come,
wherein a network connects said information gathering server to a hall terminal provided at a gift hand-over place in an event hall, the client terminal, and area terminals

provided area by area in said event hall, and
wherein portable user terminals are carried by persons who enter the event hall.

13. (Original) The information gathering server according to claim 11, wherein said contents of said questionnaire differ from one area to another.

14. (Original) The information gathering server according to claim 12, wherein said contents of said questionnaire differ from one area to another.

15. (Currently Amended) An information gathering method in a system having portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall, area terminals provided area by area in said event hall, an information gathering server, a client terminal and a network which connects said area terminals, said client terminal and said information gathering server, said method comprising the steps of:

allowing said information gathering server to register registering, by the information gathering server, hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request information sent from said client terminal;

allowing said information gathering server to transmit transmitting, by the information gathering server, said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals over said network when said questionnaire start date has come;

allowing an area terminal having received said contents of said questionnaire to transfer transferring, by an area terminal having received said contents of said questionnaire, said contents of said questionnaire to those portable user terminals which are located in the same area by close-range wireless communication;

allowing each of said portable user terminals having received said contents of said questionnaire to input inputting, by each of said portable user terminals having received said contents of said questionnaire, an answer to said questionnaire and transmit from said answer to said questionnaire to that area terminal in the same area by close-range wireless communication;

allowing said area terminal having received said answer to said questionnaire to affix

affixing, by said area terminal having received said answer to said questionnaire, a hall/area ID and a present date to said answer to said questionnaire and transmit transmitting that answer to said questionnaire to said information gathering server over said network, and allowing said information gathering server to store those pieces of information; and allowing said information gathering server to transmit transmitting, by said information gathering server, said answer to said questionnaire to said client terminal over said network and performing a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come.

16. (Currently Amended) An information gathering method in a system having portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall, a hall terminal provided at a gift hand-over place in said event hall, area terminals provided area by area in said event hall, an information gathering server, a client terminal and a network which connects said hall terminal, said area terminals, said client terminal, and said information gathering server, said method comprising the steps of:

allowing said information gathering server to register registering, by said information gathering server, hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request information sent from said client terminal;

allowing said information gathering server to transmit transmitting, by said information gathering server, said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals over said network when said questionnaire start date has come;

allowing an area terminal having received said contents of said questionnaire to transfer transferring said contents of said questionnaire to those portable user terminals which are located in the same area by close-range wireless communication by an area terminal having received said contents of said questionnaire;

allowing each of said portable user terminals having received said contents of said questionnaire to input inputting, by each of said portable user terminals having received said contents of said questionnaire, an answer to said questionnaire, a name and a personal identification number and transmit said answer to said questionnaire as answer information to that area terminal in the same area by close-range wireless communication;

~~allowing said area terminal having received said answer information to said questionnaire to affix affixing, by said area terminal having received said answer information to said questionnaire a hall/area ID and a present date to said answer to said questionnaire and transmit transmitting that answer to said questionnaire to said information gathering server over said network, and allows said information gathering server to store storing those pieces of information by said information gathering server;~~

~~allowing said information gathering server to draw drawing, by said information gathering server, a gift getting person from those persons who have answered said questionnaire when said questionnaire end date has comes, transmit transmitting the name of said gift getting person to that area terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person over said network and transmit transmitting combination information of said name of said gift getting person and said personal identification number to that hall terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person over said network;~~

~~allowing said area terminal having received said name of said gift getting person to transfer transferring, by said area terminal having received said name of said gift getting person, said name of said gift getting person to those portable user terminals which are located in the same area by close-range wireless communication; and~~

~~allowing said information gathering server to transmit transmitting, by said information gathering server, said answer to said questionnaire to said client terminal over said network and performing a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which is adapted to an information gathering server in a system having portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall, area terminals provided area by area in said event hall, an information gathering server, a client terminal and a network which connects said area terminals, said client terminal, and said information gathering server, and which allows a computer to realize wherein said computer program performs:

a function of registering hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request

information sent from said client terminal;

a function of transmitting said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals when said questionnaire start date has come;

a function of receiving and storing an answer to said questionnaire, a hall/area ID of said area terminal, and a present date from said area terminal; and

a function of transmitting said answer to said questionnaire to said client terminal and performing a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program which is adapted to an information gathering server in a system having portable user terminals carried by persons who have entered an event hall, a hall terminal provided at a gift hand-over place in said event hall, area terminals provided area by area in said event hall, an information gathering server, a client terminal and a network which connects said hall terminal, said area terminals, said client terminal, and said information gathering server, and which allows a computer to realize wherein said computer program performs:

a function of registering hall-by-hall/area-by-area questionnaire information including event halls and areas targeted for a questionnaire, a questionnaire start date, a questionnaire end date, and contents of said questionnaire, based on questionnaire request information sent from said client terminal;

a function of transmitting said contents of said questionnaire to associated area terminals when said questionnaire start date has come;

a function of receiving and [[stores]] storing an answer to said questionnaire, a name, a personal identification number, a hall/area ID of said area terminal, and a present date from said area terminal;

a function of drawing a gift getting person from those persons who have answered said questionnaire when said questionnaire end date has comes, transmitting the name of said gift getting person to that area terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person, and transmitting combination information of said name of said gift getting person and said personal identification number to that hall terminal which corresponds to said gift getting person; and

a function of transmitting said answer to said questionnaire to said client terminal and performing a charge settling process when said questionnaire end date has come.

19. (New) The information gathering system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a client terminal that transmits questionnaire request information to the information gathering server and receives and displays questionnaire result data from the information gathering server.

20. (New) The information gathering system according to claim 1, further comprising:
a device by which each of said area terminals receives the name of a gift recipient that is transferred to those portable user terminals which are located in a same area by close-range wireless communication.